communication received from the federations. No professional consultants are available for purpose of reorganisation of zones. The Government does not agree with their views.

Modernisation of rail lines connecting four metros

427. SHRI RAM MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is thinking of modernising all the rail lines, connecting all the four metros, in the coming five years with an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000/- crores;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the routes that are going to be taken up in the South Central and the South Eastern Railway Zones in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways (MoR) have decided to strengthen the Golden Quardilateral and its Diagonals which forms the High Density Network (HDN) and is saturated in most parts. The Golden Quadrilateral connects the four metro cities, *i.e.* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. The strengthening of this route will be done by laying of additional lines, improvement in terminals, electrification of selected sections and raising the speed of freight trains up to 100 kmph thus reducing the speed differential between Mail/Express trains and freight trains.

Some of the sub-projects of this programme were already sanctioned and work on these components is in progress. The sanctioned cost of these projects is approx. Rs. 1800 crores. In addition, new sub-projects have been identified for sanction. The total cost of this programme is yet to be finalized, however it is expected to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores.

(c) the Chennai-Howrah, Chennai-Mumbai and Chennai-Delhi routes will have a part of the route passing through Andhra Prarẹsh.